

Message Text

SECRET

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TAGS: NATO, MARR, MNUC, PARM, TU
SUBJ: TURKISH RESPONSE TO BREZHNEV LETTER

REF: ANKARA 1961

1. MFA HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY WITH FOLLOWING UNOFFICIAL
TRANSLATION OF THE TURKISH RESPONSE TO THE "BREZHNEV LETTER."

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE CAREFULLY STUDIED
YOUR MESSAGE OF JANUARY 5, 1978. TURKEY WHICH IS NOT A
NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATE, IS FOLLOWING WITH CONCERN THE USE OF
MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN AUGMENTING THE EFFICIENCY AND THE
DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY OF WEAPONS AND IN PARTICULAR THE USE OF
NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR MILITARY ENDS BY THE GREAT POWERS. THE
INFORMATION WE HAVE ON THE PARTICULAR NUCLEAR WARHEAD WHICH
YOU DESCRIBE AS THE NEUTRON BOMB, IS THAT THIS IS A WARHEAD
FOR DEFENSIVE USE AGAINST ATTACKS CONDUCTED ESPECIALLY BY
ARMORED VEHICLES. IT IS OF COURSE NOT POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER
HUMANE EITHER THIS PARTICULAR OR ANY OTHER WEAPON BE IT CON-
VENTIONAL OR NUCLEAR.

HOWEVER, WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT THE NUCLEAR POWERS HAVE
IN THEIR STOCKPILES MANY NUCLEAR WARHEAD WITH MUCH MORE
DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY THAN THE WARHEAD MENTIONED AND THE
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CAPABILITY TO DELIVER SUCH WEAPONS TO DISTANT POINTS OF THE
GLOBE, I BELIEVE THAT THE MEASURES INTENDED TO SECURE THE
FUTURE OF HUMANITY CAN ONLY BE TAKEN BY A COMPREHENSIVE
APPROACH COVERING ALL WEAPONS QUANTITATIVELY AND QUALITATIVELY.

MR. PRESIDENT, SINCE THE RELENTLESS ARMS RACE IN ALL
PARTS OF THE GLOBE IS NOT IN LINE WITH THE DETENTE PROCESS,

TURKEY IS RESOLVED TO STRONGLY SUPPORT DISARMAMENT EFFORTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELIMINATION OF CAUSES UNDERLYING THE ARMS RACE.

OUR ATTITUDE HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

"OUR GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE TERMINATION OF THE ARMAMENTS RACE, AND TO THE PREVENTION OF THE WAR TECHNOLOGY FROM REACHING DIMENSIONS DANGEROUS TO HUMANITY."

CONSEQUENTLY, TURKEY'S POSITION CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE EFFORTS OF A PARTICULAR COUNTRY TO ACHIEVE ABSOLUTE SECURITY HAVE LED OTHER COUNTRIES TO SPEND EFFORTS IN THE SAME DIRECTION AND THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO HALT THE RELENTLESS ARMS RACE, IT IS NECESSARY, AS A FIRST STEP, TO FIND WAYS TO DO AWAY WITH THOSE NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ABOVE AND BEYOND THE ESSENTIAL BALANCE REQUIRED FOR SECURITY. THE SUCCESS OF PRESENT EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN IN THIS FIELD WILL ENCOURAGE NEW AND FURTHER EFFORTS. AFTER ACHIEVING SUCH A RESULT WITHIN A BALANCE SYSTEM THAT WILL BE NECESSARY TO RELENTLESSLY CONTINUE THE ARMS REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL BRING ABOUT, EFFECTIVE
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CONTROL. TURKEY HOPES THAT THE EFFORTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND REALISTIC SPIRIT BY THE BIG POWERS, IN PARTICULAR BY NUCLEAR-WEAPONS STATES, WILL TO A VERY LARGE EXTENT BE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE OUTCOME OF GENERAL DISARMAMENT.

TURKEY, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF FINAL ACT, WILL STRIVE TO DEVELOP THE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION IN HER REGION WITH ALL HER NEIGHBORS IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT THE SUCCESS OF DISARMAMENT EFFORTS DEPENDS TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF CONDITIONS OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH WILL BE GENERATED AND STRENGTHENED BY THE CLIMATE OF DETENTE. OUR BASIC FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLE RESTS ON THE CONVICTION AND WE SHALL SPARE NO EFFORT TO THIS END.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REPEAT THE IMPORTANCE WHICH TURKEY ATTACHES TO MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING RELATIONS OF FRIENDLY COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND TO EXPRESS MY CONVICTION THAT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. BULENT ECEVIT, PRIME MINISTER
END TEXT
SPIERS

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